

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

(609) 989-2040

CHAMBERS OF

TONIANNE J. BONGIOVANNI  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

U.S. COURTHOUSE

402 E. STATE STREET, RM 6052  
TRENTON, NJ 08608

March 7, 2016

**SCHEDULING ORDER**

**Re: Ebert v. Hamilton Township, et al.,**  
**Civil Action No. 15-7331 (AET)**

Dear Counsel:

As discussed during the Initial Conference held today, the following schedule shall govern this matter:

1. In accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 26(a)(1), initial disclosures shall be made by **March 21, 2016.**
2. The Court will conduct a telephone conference on **May 18, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.** Defendant shall initiate the conference.
3. Any motion to amend the pleadings must be filed no later than **May 27, 2016.**
4. Any motion to join new parties, whether by amended or third-party complaint, must be filed no later than **May 27, 2016.**
5. Counsel will confer in an attempt to resolve any discovery or case management disputes before making such dispute the subject of a motion. No discovery motion will be entertained absent counsel's full compliance with L.Civ.R. 37.1(a)(1); *see also* L.Civ.R. 16.1(f).
6. Any discovery or case management dispute will be brought to the attention of the United States Magistrate Judge. L.Civ.R. 37.1(a)(1); *see also* L.Civ.R. 16.1(f).
7. The amount of depositions and interrogatories to be taken by each party will **be set by the Court on a later date.**
8. Fact discovery shall be completed no later than **September 1, 2016.**
9. The Plaintiff's affirmative expert reports are due on or before **October 1, 2016.**

10. The Defendant's affirmative expert reports are due on or before **October 15, 2016.**
11. Deposition of Plaintiff's expert may be conducted as late as **November 1, 2016.**
12. Deposition of Defendant's experts on or before **November 1, 2016.**
13. Dispositive motions are to be filed no later than **January 13, 2017 and are returnable February 6, 2017.**
14. A party seeking to file a motion to dismiss or motion for summary judgment must seek the Court's approval before filing.
15. A settlement conference will be scheduled on **a date to be later set by the Court.** No later than seven days prior to the settlement conference, each party is to deliver to the Court a confidential letter, **NOT to exceed 5 pages in total**, summarizing the relevant facts, the respective legal positions, status of the case, and the client's position of settlement. Trial counsel and clients with full settlement authority must be present **IN PERSON** at the conference. Any failure in this regard may result in the imposition of sanctions.
16. A Final Pretrial Conference shall be held before the undersigned on **February 28, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.**
17. At the pretrial conference counsel should be prepared to discuss settlement of the case. Clients must be available by telephone.
18. The attorneys for all parties are further directed to meet together by agreement, initiated by counsel for the plaintiff no later than ten (10) days before the date of the pretrial conference to:
  - a. discuss settlement;
  - b. stipulate to as many facts and issues as possible;
  - c. prepare a Final Pretrial Order in the form and content as required by the Court. Plaintiff's counsel will prepare the Final Pretrial Order and will submit it to all other counsel for approval and execution. The original and one copy of the executed Final Pretrial Order will be delivered to the pretrial conference. All counsel are responsible for the timely submission of the Final Pretrial Stipulation and Order;
  - d. examine all exhibits and documents proposed to be used at trial;
  - e. complete all other matters which may expedite both the pretrial and trial of the case;
  - f. submit an original and one copy of the proposed Final Pretrial Order at least (5) days in advance of the conference; and

- g. affix appropriate markers to the exhibits at or prior to the time they are shown to opposing counsel at the meeting of counsel referred to above; each marker will bear the number of the exhibit to which it is affixed.
19. Any proposed confidentiality order agreed to by the parties must be accompanied by a separate statement showing specific good cause for the entry of the order and must comply with L.Civ.R. 5.3.
  20. The Court may, from time to time, schedule conferences as may be required, either on its own motion or at the request of the parties.
  21. Since all dates set forth herein are established with the assistance and knowledge of the parties, there will be no extensions except for good cause shown and by leave of Court, even with consent of all parties.
  22. Failure to appear at subsequent conferences, or to comply with any of the terms of this Order, may result in sanctions.
  23. The parties are advised that the Court has various audio/visual and evidence presentation equipment available for use at trial at no cost to the parties. This equipment includes an evidence presentation system, which consists of a document camera and a projector. The projector may be used to display images which originate from a variety of sources, including television, VCR and personal computer. The document camera may be used to display documents, photographs, charts, transparencies and small objects. For further information, please contact the Courtroom Deputy Mark Morelli.
  24. An original copy of any letter memoranda that is faxed or emailed to Chambers should NOT be mailed to Chambers, unless specifically advised otherwise. All proposed orders and letter memoranda emailed to Chambers should be in Microsoft Word format and emailed to: [tjb\\_orders@njd.uscourts.gov](mailto:tjb_orders@njd.uscourts.gov). Any letter may be faxed to (609) 989-0435. Any filings with the Clerk of the Court should be in PDF format.
  25. Counsel MUST NOT file correspondence, including discovery or status letters, via CM/ECF unless instructed by the Court. Chambers will not receive notice of any such postings. If Counsel wish to have correspondence entered onto the Court docket, they may include this request in the correspondence to the undersigned.
  26. Counsel are invited to use the George H. Barlow Attorney Conference Room located on the third floor of the Courthouse Annex. The room is equipped with telephones, laptop and printer access, copier, and facsimile.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

s/ Tonianne J. Bongiovanni  
**TONIANNE J. BONGIOVANNI**  
**United States Magistrate Judge**